

Application Serial No. 09/866,838
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Page 16, line 28, to page 17, line 9, please amend the paragraph, as follows: ✓

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A mass counter balance or counter mass device is shown in Fig. 8. In this embodiment, magnet track 46 is flexibly mounted using a flexure or other type of bearing to frame 22, allowing for a small movement of the magnet track relative to frame 22. The magnet track is connected to a counter mass 208, through rod 207 and attachment block 206. Counter mass 208 is attached to ground 211 using a bearing 209. If the counter mass is outside the stage vacuum chamber (not shown), then seal 212 is used to prevent leakage of air into the vacuum chamber. A small motor 210 or spring can be used to keep the counter mass within its normal operating range. A similar counter mass is provided for each of the magnet tracks 46, 76 so that substantially all reaction forces are absorbed and reduced. The counter mass system provides superior reaction force canceling compared to the reaction frame, but at a higher cost, size and complexity.

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 35 and 36, as follows: ✓

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35. (Amended) The method of claim 33, wherein actuating the X-direction linear motor to position the support platform in the X-direction occurs as the article is not being exposed.

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